

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims (with additions underlined and deletions struck through) will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 7, wherein the~~ A method for generating energy via clean-emissions burning of a natural oil byproduct comprising the steps of:
vaporizing a fatty acid composition via distillation from a feed composition including at least one of an animal fat and a vegetable oil, leaving a non-vaporized natural oil byproduct comprises comprising about 20% to about 50% by weight free fatty acid and from about 20% to about 70% by weight unhydrolyzed fat/oil;
burning the natural oil byproduct to release energy; and
harnessing energy released by burning the natural oil byproduct to drive a process.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the natural oil byproduct further comprises about 2% to about 5% by weight unsaponifiable impurities and about 2% to about 7% by weight oxidized, polymerized fatty materials.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method for generating energy via clean-emissions burning of a natural oil byproduct comprising the steps of:
vaporizing a fatty acid composition via distillation from a feed composition including at least one of an animal fat and a vegetable oil, leaving a non-vaporized natural oil byproduct, wherein the distilled, vaporized fatty acid composition comprises is at least about 90% of the distillation initial feed material by weight fatty acid;
burning the natural oil byproduct to release energy; and

harnessing energy released by burning the natural oil byproduct to drive a process.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A ~~clean-emissions~~ method for generating energy via clean-emissions burning of a natural oil byproduct comprising the steps of:

burning a natural oil byproduct comprising about 20% to about 40% by weight free fatty acid and from about 20% to about 70% by weight unhydrolyzed fat/oil to release energy, wherein the natural oil byproduct is the unvaporized remnant of a natural oil composition after fatty acids are separated from the natural oil byproduct via distillation; and

harnessing energy released by burning the natural oil byproduct to drive a process.

16. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace in which the natural oil byproduct is substituted, in whole or in part, for another type of fuel, the substitution of the natural oil byproduct producing a decrease in the emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the fuel for which the natural oil byproduct is substituted is chosen from distillate number 2 fuel oil, residual number 6 fuel oil, and coal.

18. (Currently amended) A ~~clean-emissions~~ method for generating energy via clean-emissions burning of a natural oil byproduct comprising the steps of:

burning a natural oil byproduct comprising about 20% to about 40% by weight free fatty acid and from about 20% to about 70% by weight unhydrolyzed fat/oil to release energy, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace in which the natural oil byproduct is substituted, in whole or in part, for another type of fuel, and

wherein the substitution of the natural oil byproduct for the other fuel reduces the emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter to a level that provides a benefit under pollution-emission regulation within a limit established by a regulatory agency compared with, ~~wherein~~ burning the fuel without the natural oil byproduct to produce the same amount of energy ~~would emit one or more pollutants at a concentration above the established limit;~~ and

harnessing energy released by burning the natural oil byproduct to drive a process.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A ~~clean-emissions~~ method for generating energy via clean-emissions burning of a natural oil byproduct comprising the steps of:

burning a natural oil byproduct comprising about 20% to about 40% by weight free fatty acid, from about 20% to about 70% by weight unhydrolyzed fat/oil, about 2% to about 5% by weight unsaponifiable impurities and about 2% to about 7% by weight oxidized, polymerized fatty materials to release energy; and

harnessing energy released by burning the natural oil byproduct to drive a process.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the natural oil byproduct is substantially free of sulfur compounds and nitrogen compounds.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace of a boiler.

23. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the natural oil byproduct is mixed with at least one fuel chosen from distillate number 2 fuel oil, residual number 6 fuel oil, and coal before burning.

24. (Withdrawn) A method for making efficient use of a natural oil byproduct from a distilled feed composition including at least one of an animal fat and a vegetable oil, the method comprising selling the natural oil byproduct to an energy producer who burns the natural oil byproduct to release energy and who harnesses that energy to drive a process.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein burning the natural oil byproduct as a substitute, in whole or in part, for another fuel enables the energy producer to decrease the emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrous oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxides and particulate matter.
26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the fuel for which the energy producer substitutes the natural oil byproduct is chosen from distillate number 2 fuel oil, residual number 6 fuel oil, and coal.
27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein substitution of the natural oil byproduct for the other fuel enables the energy producer to produce a desired amount of energy while maintaining emitted pollutant concentrations within a limit established by a regulatory agency, wherein the energy producer would not be able to produce the desired amount of energy if burning just the other fuel without the natural oil byproduct.
28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the feed composition is hydrolyzed before distillation.
29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein the natural oil byproduct comprises free fatty acid and unhydrolyzed fat/oil.
30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the natural oil byproduct further comprises unsaponifiable impurities and oxidized, polymerized fatty materials.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the natural oil byproduct comprises about 20% to about 50% by weight free fatty acid and from about 20% to about 70% by weight unhydrolyzed fat/oil.
32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the natural oil byproduct further comprises about 2% to about 5% by weight unsaponifiable impurities and about 2% to about 7% by weight oxidized, polymerized fatty materials.
33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein the natural oil byproduct is substantially free of sulfur compounds and nitrogen compounds.
34. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the emission of pollutant(s) is reduced to a level within a limit established by a regulatory agency, wherein burning the fuel without the natural oil byproduct to produce the same amount of energy would emit one or more pollutants at a concentration above the established limit.
35. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace in which the natural oil byproduct is substituted, in whole or in part, for another type of fuel, and wherein the substitution of the natural oil byproduct for the other fuel reduces the emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter to a level that provides a benefit under pollution-emission regulation established by a regulatory agency compared with burning the fuel without the natural oil byproduct to produce the same amount of energy.
36. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace in which the natural oil byproduct is substituted, in whole or in part, for another type of fuel, and wherein the substitution of the natural oil byproduct for the other fuel reduces the emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter to a level that provides a benefit under pollution-emission regulation established by a regulatory agency compared with burning the fuel without the natural oil byproduct to produce the same amount of energy.

37. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace in which the natural oil byproduct is substituted, in whole or in part, for another type of fuel, and wherein the substitution of the natural oil byproduct for the other fuel reduces the emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter to a level that provides a benefit under pollution-emission regulation established by a regulatory agency compared with burning the fuel without the natural oil byproduct to produce the same amount of energy.
38. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the substitution, in whole or in part, of the natural oil byproduct reduces the emission level for one or more of the pollutants to a level that provides a benefit under pollution-emission regulation established by a regulatory agency compared with burning the fuel without the natural oil byproduct to produce the same amount of energy.
39. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the natural oil byproduct is burned in a furnace in which the natural oil byproduct is substituted, in whole or in part, for another type of fuel, and wherein the substitution of the natural oil byproduct for the other fuel reduces the emission of at least one pollutant chosen from nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide and particulate matter to a level that provides a benefit under pollution-emission regulation established by a regulatory agency compared with burning the fuel without the natural oil byproduct to produce the same amount of energy.